

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 199696

45

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66605

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: JSNYDER

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: WNEWLIN

----- 042322

O 071557Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 199696

EXDIS

CINCEUR HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BEIRUT, TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM,
CAIRO AND USUN FROM AMMAN OCT 07 REPEATD YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 5343

EXDIS

DEPT PASS: CINCEUR FOR POLAD INFO IMMEDIATE AND

USCINCEUR INFO IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, JO, XF

SUBJ: HUSSEIN'S ALTERNATIVES

REF: BEIRUT 11878

1. SUMMARY: AVAILABLE EVIDENCE STILL SUGGESTS HUSSEIN WILL
ATTEMPT TO REMAIN ON SIDELINES. HOWEVER, PRESSURES FOR
JORDANIAN COMMITMENT COULD ERUPT QUICKLY FROM NUMBER OF
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 199696

DIRECTIONS. LATEST (AND UNEXPECTED) FACTOR WORKING AGAINST
JORDANIAN MODERATION IS REPORTED ISRAELI OVERFLIGHT OF AMMAN
SUBURBS NOON OCT 7. END SUMMARY

2. WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO HUSSEIN'S

LIKELY REACTIONS UNDER VARIETY OF POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS. AS AMBASSADOR WARNED IN REFTTEL, WE CANNOT TAKE FOR GRANTED THE USUAL ASSUMPTION THAT KING CAN WITHSTAND INDEFINITELY PRESSURE OF ALL EXTERNAL EVENTS.

3. MAIN FACTOR FOR CONSIDERATION IS TIME-FRAME. IF FIGHTING CAN BE HALTED WITHIN FEW DAYS, HUSSEIN WILL HAVE FAIRLY EASY TIME STAYING OUT. HE UNDOUBTEDLY IS HOPING FOR THIS EARLY RELIEF. HOWEVER, PRESSURES WILL INCREASE RAPIDLY IF BATTLE BECOMES PROTRACTED. TIME ALSO WILL DICTATE THE TYPE OF PRESSURES HE MUST FACE. FOR EXAMPLE, AVAILABLE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS COMMAND AND LEVEL OFFICERS IN JORDAN ARMY AT PRESENT MOMENT ARE NO MORE ANXIOUS THAN BEFORE TO JOIN ANY BATTLE THEY ARE UNSURE OF WINNING. HOWEVER, IN UNLIKELY EVENT OF ARAB "STEAMROLLER" SUCCESS AGAINST ISRAELIS, THIS ATTITUDE LIKELY TO SHIFT TO AGITATION TO JOIN FRAY. KING, DEPENDING ON ARMY AS POWER BASE AND MINDFUL OF ROLE AS OUSTED SOVEREIGN OF WEST BANK, WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FORFEIT THIS CHANCE TO RECOVER SOME OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. MORE REALISTIC SITUATION WOULD INVOLVE TURN OF TIDE IN ISRAELI FAVOR AND RESULTANT APPEALS FOR HELP BY SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS. WE SUSPECT KING WOULD STALL AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, PERHAPS HOPING FOR SECURITY COUNCIL CEASE-FIRE APPEAL OR SOME OTHER FACE-SAVING DEVICE. ON OTHER HAND, THERE ARE EMOTIONAL LIMITS, EG: ARAB HONOR, WHICH HE WOULD EVENTUALLY REACH ESPECIALLY IF ISRAELI COUNTER ATTACK WENT BEYOND FORMER CEASE-FIRE LINES. IF SYRIANS BECAME SUFFICIENTLY DESPERATE, THEY COULD LAUNCH SOME MOVEMENT THROUGH NORTHWEST TIP OF JORDAN THAT WOULD PROVOKE ISRAELI RESPONSE AND THUS MAKE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR JORDAN TO REMAIN ON SIDELINES. WE ASSUME ISRAELIS WISH TO AVOID OPENING THIRD FRONT AND WOULD AVOID SIMILAR TRANSIT OF JORDANIAN TERRITORY, DESPITE TACTICAL ADVANTAGES OF FLANKING OPERATION IN GOLAN. RASH ISRAELI MOVE IN THIS AREA WOULD OF COURSE LEAVE JORDAN NO CHOICE. STILL ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT IRAQ WOULD DEMAND TRANSIT RIGHTS IN ORDER TO COMMIT ITS FORCES TO BATTLE ZONE. HUSSEIN PRESUMABLY WOULD DO UTMOST TO
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 199696

AVOID THIS UNWANTED DEVELOPMENT BUT, UNDER DETERIORATING CONDITIONS, CONCEIVABLY WOULD HAVE TO AGREE. (BAGHDAD 0527 SUGGESTS THIS GOI MOVE UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF CURRENT BAD RELATIONS WITH CAIRO).

4. PRESSURES FROM KING FAISAL ARE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT BUT WE SUSPECT THEY TOO WOULD VARY ACCORDING TO TIME-FRAME OF HOSTILITIES. FAISAL PRESUMABLY AS CAUTIOUS AS HUSSEIN AND NOT LIKELY TO DESIRE COMMITMENT OF SAUDI EAST BANK CONTINGENT WHICH INEVITABLE IF JORDAN JOINS BATTLE. HOWEVER, FAISAL LIKEWISE MAY HAVE HIS EMOTIONAL LIMITS AND COULD SHIFT PRESSURE FROM RESISTANCE TO COMMITMENT IF ARAB ROUTE EVIDENT. (JIDDA COMMENTS WELCOME).

5. SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT BY ALL CURRENT LOCAL INDICATIONS, HUSSEIN IS HOLDING TO NON-COMMITMENT RESOLVE. PRIMIN RIFA'T'S COMMENTS TO BRIT AMBASSADOR (REPORTED SEPTTEL) THAT JORDAN DETERMINED TO STAY OUT WOULD ONLY MOVE TO DEFEND BORDERS IS LATEST ENCOURAGING EVIDENCE. HOWEVER, WE REMAIN MINDFUL OF FACT THAT ONE OR MORE OF ABOVE PRESSURES COULD BEGIN BUILDING WITHIN DAY OR TWO IF FIGHTING CONTINUES. JORDANIANS CLAIM THAT EIGHT ISRAELI PHANTOMS OVERFLEW SUWEILEH, NEAR AMMAN, MID-DAY TODAY ADDS ADDITIONAL NOTE OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO INRAELI INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS JORDAN. IF REPORT TRUE, THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO UNNECESSARY RISK-TAKING ON GOI SIDE AND ADDITIONAL FACTOR WORKING AGAINST JORDANIAN MODERATION.

GRAHAM

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE199696
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S-O: JSNYDER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750018-2100
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731066/abqceiyl.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: BEIRUT 11878
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUSSEIN'S ALTERNATIVES
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, JO, XF
To: USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005